



City of Long Beach

GARY DeLONG
COUNCILMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

August 17, 2007

H. Dale Hall, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Hall:

I am writing to you in response to a letter from Mr. Steve Thompson to Congressman Rohrabacher (CNO 032030). Mr. Thompson was responding to a letter Congressman Rohrabacher sent to you dated July 2, 2007.


It appears that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is under the impression that "efforts to obtain landowner support for restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands have been significantly slowed". In reality, significant progress has been made by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA), which is a Joint Powers Authority consisting of the City of Long Beach, City of Seal Beach, Coastal Conservancy and San Gabriel Rivers & Mountains Conservancy. Specific achievements are:

- ☐ In 2006 the LCWA purchased 66 acres of Los Cerritos Wetlands from the Bryant Trust
- ☐ Within the next several months the LCWA will be purchasing 100 acres of the Los Cerritos Wetlands (Hellman Ranch)
- ☐ The LCWA will shortly begin discussions on purchasing the remaining 180+ acres of the Los Cerritos Wetlands that are in private hands

As you can see, we are ready to proceed with restoration planning efforts for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. I am the current Chairman of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, and would like to move forward with working with the Port of Long Beach as soon as possible.

I will be in Washington, D.C. the week of September 17th, and would like to meet with you to discuss next steps towards making the Port of Long Beach a partner. Our federal representative, Mr. Thane Young from Van Scoyoc Associates, will be contacting your office to schedule an appointment.

Sincerely,


Gary DeLong
Councilmember, 3rd District

Cc: B. Boxer, United States Senator
D. Rohrabacher, United States Congressman
R. Foster, Mayor, City of Long Beach
M. Cordero, President, Port of Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners
A. Batts, City Manager, City of Long Beach
D. Steinke, Executive Director, Port of Long Beach
B. Faustinos, Executive Director, Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
S. Schuchat, Executive Director, California Coastal Conservancy